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13 OCT 1988

ICS 7855-88
12 October 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/PPO
FROM: VChmn/IHC
SUBJECT: Transition Team Fact Book

In response to your subject memorandum, I am transmitting herewith, a copy of the one pagers on functions of the IHC Staff. If anything further is required, please let me know.



Attachment:
As Stated

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DCI/ICS/IHC **(12Oct88)**

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Information Handling Committee (IHC) Staff Functions

- I. Formulate and recommend to the DCI policies, plans and programs directed toward improving the operational and technical aspects of interagency information handling operations.

As directed by the Director of the Intelligence Community Staff, the DDCI or the DCI, by action of the Information Handling Committee (IHC), or at the request of other interagency committees and organizations, the IHC Staff develops policies, plans and programs relating to interagency information handling operations.

A current example of the IHC Staff's activities in this functional area involves the development of an interagency community plan and a DCI sponsored program to improve the Community's access to and its ability to exploit open source information. This effort was initiated by an executive level interagency steering group formed by the DCI. This group tasked the IHC to develop a plan and submit a program designed to provide a coordinated Community Open Source Information Exchange (OSIX) by linking together and expanding the information support being provided by existing and planned automated information systems. With the participation of all elements of the Community, a plan for accomplishing this objective and a program for its support is being developed for DCI review and approval.

A similar project involving technical design considerations along with programmatic and policy issue resolution is the Community Multilateral Counterterrorist Data System initiative. This project is driven by the requirement to provide improved information handling and communications support to all of the various elements of the Intelligence Community and other U. S. Government elements involved in intelligence support to counterterrorist activities. The IHC and the IHC Staff is currently engaged in coordinating a government-wide cooperative effort to define an information handling architecture and address complex policy issues relating to the improvement of our overall capabilities to provide this type of support. There is a recognized need for the Community to apply the most advanced currently available computer and communications security technology and information processing techniques in a coordinated program in order to resolve high level policy and procedural issues which have constrained the Community's previous efforts in this critical area. The combination of the IHC Staff's technical expertise and the IHC's central role in being able to mobilize and coordinate the participation of the many elements of the Intelligence Community required to successfully address both the technical and policy issues involved is indispensable to their successful resolution.

Other similar examples could be cited to illustrate the performance of this function by the IHC Staff. Fundamental to all such activities are coordinated policies and procedures governing computer and network security. The role of the IHC Staff in this area is addressed in more detail below.

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